

Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Richard Souza. I am from East Hartford. I am testifying today, March 14, 2022, in **opposition** to:

S.B. 16 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

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There is so much wrong with this bill that I almost don't know where to start. I couldn't find much in this bill about juvenile crime, but I did find more proposed gun control for the honest citizens of Connecticut.

In 2019, you required that all future homemade firearms be serialized and recorded in your database, but you assured us in that legislation that firearms previously made would be excluded from such registration. Now, this bill will eliminate that exemption. So, you lied to us. Our US Constitution says Congress shall write no ex post facto laws, but I guess this state government doesn't have that restriction, either legally or morally.

Your proposed ban of "other" firearms by features effectively makes legally purchased receivers for such firearms useless, as no one would be able to build up the stripped receivers and assemble the firearms. Such a firearm might be just perfect for a handicapped person who is not very mobile, especially when accompanied by an arm brace or other stabilizing brace.

Do you really want to ban arm braces and stabilizing braces that handicapped people use so that they can fire a firearm in self defense or defense of others without inadvertently shooting themselves or an innocent person? Do you know that would expose this state to a variety of lawsuits?

Your proposal to create a new class of "assault weapons" out of rimfire semiautomatic rifles and "other" firearms borders on the absurd. Your proposed new assault weapons ban on rimfire semiautomatic rifles with a detachable magazine and one distinguishing (cosmetic) feature lays bare a government that has already banned so many firearms that it is reaching for straws at this point to continue its crusade against people who are not criminals. Seriously, how many mass shooting have occurred by people using squirrel rifles?

The fact that this government now wants to ban pre-ban (1994) semiautomatic rifles shows that this government cannot be trusted to even obey the laws it has written in the past.

The fact that you now want to ban the carrying of firearms in public places shows that, with respect to firearms, you do not make a distinction between lawful citizens and criminals. Keeping legal pistol permit holders 75 feet away from polling stations, municipal or state buildings, and off trains, buses and ferries and requiring that no firearms can be shown, displayed or visible, within 250 feet of any demonstration means that the only people in these areas will be mass murderers and other criminals, because you will be effectively creating gun free zones, also known as soft target killing zones.

Lastly, now you want to give law enforcement officers the authority to demand that legal pistol permit holders show their permits without reasonable suspicion of a crime. This is nothing but blatant harassment of lawful pistol permit holders. It's what we would expect from Nazis, not Americans. The potential for abuse is astronomical.